

Cracklin' Static

June 2018 Edition



Breakfast Meeting – Sat, June 2nd

Boomtown Casino Hotel
Events Center
I-80 at Exit 4 in Verdi

Breakfast Buffet – 7:30am - \$12
General Meeting – 8:00am

Mark Deutschendorf from the Weather Service will do a SKY-WARN Refresher and answer questions about the current weather situation.

SNARS NET on DMR – Tuesday 8pm
DMR Talk Group: 31328 SNARS

SNARS Treasury – As of 29 May 2018

Checking:	\$7040.65
Savings:	\$5575.86
PayPal:	\$3,074.56
Self Insurance:	\$1150.70
Convention Fund:	\$7209.48
Total	\$24051.25

SNARS Membership – ending May 29

Technician:	125
General:	97
Advanced:	17
Extra:	116

SNARS Members	355
ARRL Members	238

President's Voice

President Anthony Marcin, W7XM

Email: w7xm@snars.org | Telegram: @w7xm_nv



During the next couple of months, I will be moving from Reno to Las Vegas to start on a new adventure. I have planned on moving to Las Vegas for some time now and finally have been given an opportunity to do so. I will con-

tinue to work on NVCON, serve as President until a replacement is found (most likely for the start of the 2019 term) and of course will continue to be part of this great organization I believe is the best Ham Radio Club in Nevada.

The board over the last year or so has utilized technology in communicating, meeting and sharing information amongst the board and have been able to act more quickly when needed and have had to meet less often. With the use of these tools it makes it possible for me to continue to serve, mentor and help transfer to a new president once one has been identified. I will always be a member of SNARS and will continue to do all I can to keep this club moving forward and providing some of the great things we have provided to the members and the amateur radio community over these last few years. I will provide more updates in the coming months. Stay tuned...

Lastly, I would like to see as many members as possible to signup and attend our great event, NVCON 2018, of which SNARS is hosting this year at Boomtown on July 20-22, 2018. We have some great vendors attending this year including, MFJ, Ham Radio Outlet, Yaesu and many more. Please make room on your calendars to attend and to show your support to these vendors who have traveled great distances to be here in Reno. If you have not done so please register today while the fees are in the early bird rates at <http://nvcon.org>. The registration is only 25.00 and will provide your entrance to the vendors and of course the many sessions we will have this year at the event. This is a perfect time to learn and get your questions answered.

73

Tony, W7XM



PO BOX 7727 Reno NV 89510
 Yearly Dues: \$40.00 Individual • \$50.00 Family
 775.453.4142 <http://snars.org>

2018 Officers

President.....Anthony Marcin, W7XM
 Vice-President.....Jim Shepherd, W6US
 Treasurer.....Bill Jones, AE7OX
 Secretary.....Rob Dunbar, NB6C
 DirectorWes Vick, KG7QXE
 DirectorJohn Byerly, N7ROJ
 DirectorBarry Bettman, K6ST

2018 Staff

Cracklin StaticHowie Holden, WB2AWQ
 W7TA TrusteePeter DeBay, KE7VSR
 KR7ENO Trustee.....Howie Holden, WB2AWQ
 Control OperatorPat Sheehan, W7DED
 HistorianJon Fox, KF7KTC
 Tech Team LeadJohn Byerly, N7ROJ
 MembershipAnthony Marcin, W7XM
 PIOVacant
 VE Coordinator.....Bill Nichols, NN7K
 Meeting GreeterBill Jones, AE7OX
 Noon Net ManagerWes Vick, KG7QXE
 DMR Net ManagerAnthony Marcin, W7XM
 Reno Ham Swap.....Rob Dunbar, NB6C
 WebmasterAnthony Marcin, W7XM

Cracklin Static Publication

Editor: Howie Holden **WB2AWQ** - holden7471@msn.com

Cracklin' Static is the Newsletter of, and sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society. Opinions expressed herein are those of the editors and contributors and should not be considered as official expressions of the Club Officers, Staff or Club Members, or as endorsements by same.

Material for publication may be edited to enhance readability or to save space. We reserve the right to use whatever font size or line spacing may be required to publish this Newsletter. **Deadline for input to the newsletter is 1500 hours on the Sunday** prior to the 1st Saturday of each month.

SNARS Wide Area Linked System

147.030 + PL 123.0	Sparks, Fernley, Fallon	Online
147.210 + PL 100.0	Reno, Sparks	Online
147.150 + PL 123.0	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
146.925 - PL 123.0	Lovelock, Fallon	Online
146.670 - PL 123.0	Winnemucca	Online
444.875 + PL 100.0	Yerington	Online
444.125 + PL 123.0	Reno Sparks	Offline

DMR Systems

444.925 + CC 1	Reno, Sparks	Online
444.825 + CC 1	Dayton, Fallon, Carson	Online
443.925 + CC 1	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
443.950 + CC 1	Incline Village	Online
442.875 + CC 1	Sparks, Fernley, Fallon	Online
442.850 + CC 1	Downtown Reno	Online
441.950 + CC 1	Fallon, Fernley	Online

Fusion Systems

146.610 - PL 123.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
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IRLP / EchoLink Systems

147.300 + PL 123.0	Reno, Sparks	Online
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Packet / APRS

145.050 - RNO	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
145.050 - ROSE	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
144.390 - TOULON	Lovelock, Fallon	Online

Standalone Systems

147.390 + PL 100.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
443.075 + PL 123.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
927.0875 + PL 114.8	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online



Online



Offline



Not Linked

Thank you to our Sponsors/Supporters



Weekday on the SNARS Linked System

147.030 + PL 123 – Sparks/Fernley
 147.150 + PL123.0 – Lake Tahoe / Truckee
 147.210 + PL 100.0 - Reno
 444.875 + PL 100.0 - Yerington
 146.925 - 123.0 – Lovelock / Fallon
 146.67 – PL 123.0 - Winnemucca

Monday through Friday @ 12:00pm

Open to all amateur radio operators. A general informational net for the amateur radio community of Northern Nevada and Eastern California. Radio Checks and Questions are welcomed.

Nets on the SNARS Linked Systems

147.210 + 100.0 | 147.030 + 123.0 | 147.150 + 123.0
 147.670 – 123.0 | 146.925 – 123.0 | 444.875 + 100.0

Bishops Storehouse Nt	Monday @ 9:15pm
N. Western NV ARES Net	Monday at 7:30pm
Northern Nevada Preppers Net	Wednesday @ 8:00PM
Hospital Net	Friday @ 10:00AM

Nets on IRLP (GSR) System

Repeater: 147.300 + 123.0

Amateur Radio Newslne	Monday - 8:00PM
Nevada Skywarn Net	Wednesday - 7:00pm
Nevada State ARES Net	Thursday - 7:00PM

Nets on Simplex/HF

Jefferson Noon Net	7.204 LSB	Daily - 12:00pm
6 Meter Net	50.350 USB	Tuesday – 8:00pm
2 Meter Week Signal	144.250 USB	Wednesday - 8:00PM
2 Meter Simplex Net	146.500 FM	Thursday – 8:00PM
10 Meter Net	28.350 USB	Sunday – 2:00PM

SNARS Weekly DMR Net – Tuesdays 8:00PM

SNARS Talk Group 31328

Open to Members and Guests. A general information net each week on DMR.

SNARS CALENDAR

SNARS Board Meeting Wednesday May 9, 6 PM
 Black Bear Diner, 2323 S. Virginia, Reno

Reno Ham Swap @ Cabelas Sat, May 12, 6am – 11am
 8650 Boomtown Garson Road, Verdi, NV
 Visit <http://renohamswap.com> for information.

QCWA Nevada Chapter Sat, May 12, 11am – 12pm
 Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que, 4925 Kietzke Ln, Reno

Reno SNARS Meetup Wednesday, May 16 6pm – 7pm
 900 S. Carson St, Carson City (inside Max Casino)

One Day Ham Review Saturday, May 19, 2018
 Washoe REOC 5195 Spectrum Blvd, Reno
<http://snars.org/classes> for more information on the One Day Ham Review / Ham Cram

Next SNARS Breakfast Meeting – Sat, June 2, 8 AM
 Boomtown Casino Hotel Events Center
 I-80 at Exit 4 in Verdi

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jack Conely	KI7WSU
Ronald Ott	KI7WSK
Dave Hassell	KI7WSJ
Sandra Ryan	KI7WSN
Chuck Henry	K7ERV
Bob Haelsig	KI7WSM
Benj Sunday	KI7YBY



Nevada State Amateur Radio Convention

NVCON

RENO-TAHOE 2018

July 20 - 22, 2018

Boomtown Casino Hotel • Reno, NV

● **Friday Amateur Radio Academy**

DX, Contesting, HF Digital, VHF/UHF Digital

● **Table Talks**

Round table discussions with Subject Experts

● **Amateur Radio Forums**

Presentations on Amateur Radio Related Topics

● **Exhibitors & Vendors**

Popular Amateur Radio Vendors and Exhibitors

● **Saturday Ham Swap**

Sell, Buy, Trade starting at 6am

● **Radio Exams**

Tech, General & Extra Exams

● **Raffle Prizes**

Amateur Radio Raffle Prizes

● **and more**

visit <http://nvcon.org> for more info

<http://nvcon.org>

THE NAME OF THE GAME

Jim Shepherd, W6US nvjims@gmail.com

FIELD DAY!

The last weekend in June, we will all be gathering at Washoe State Park to operate around the clock for the 24 hours of Field Day. Set up will be on Friday, June 22 and we will need help stringing long wire antennas between the trees! We will be at the main group use area down by the boat launch and there are lots of tall trees for antenna supports.

Radios and antennas may make the contacts, but they don't run without a lot of other things working properly. We are going to be an "A" class station which means that we will be running the radios on power other than that supplied by NV Energy. The bulk of that power will be by gas powered generators. We will need at least 2 quiet generators with proper spill containment systems. A separate spill containment system will be needed for the fuel storage area. The generators will be located just behind the rest rooms along the edge of the parking area. I have several heavy duty 10 gauge 100' extension cords to bring the power to operating positions, but we need several heavy duty power strips to split the power at the stations.

We also will be using 'shore power' from the park's power system for the logging computers and any needed lighting. If you have a small UPS, bring it to use with a logging computer as they do not have good batteries and any power bump could shut them down. Additional lighting is needed for outlying stations and should have LED bulbs to keep our power draw to a minimum as we may have very limited power on the park system. Additional outdoor rated 3 wire extension cords are needed for the computer power system. Be sure to label any equipment that you bring.

The computers will be set up to interface with most of the radios which will help with logging as the mode and frequencies entries will be automatic. Here is your chance to try some different modes and equipment with lots of potential contacts out there ready to come back to your CQ. We will have 2 stations dedicated to CW, 2 dedicated to the digital modes and 3 stations on voice mode. Since we will have Extra class control operators available, every one working will be able to use all the sections of the ham bands. Being a 24 hour operation, we are really looking for folks to operate in the late night and early morning periods. Virtually all of our 80M contacts were made late at night last year.

There is limited space under the main shelter, so some stations may need a canopy or tent for shelter. Thunderstorms like we have had in past years are accompanied by high, gusty winds so the shelters must be up to the task at hand. We will also need to hang some tarps around the main shelter to deflect horizontal rain, wind and the sun in the late afternoon and early morning. Stations associated with motorhomes will need to be set up outside, and most recrea-

tional vehicles have canopies to help with that. A few extra tarps to put over the equipment during the storms are also needed.

There are plenty of park tables with attached benches, however while they are nice for a few minutes while eating, sitting on those benches for hours while operating can get old... Good folding tables with comfortable chairs really can make for better operating positions. Try out your combination at home first or bring your chair to our 'on site' meeting and check it with the end of the park tables. Most of the foldup camping chairs actually have you sitting too low to be comfortable at a table. For those stations that will not be operating on the cement pad under the main shelter, a large throw rug will help keep the dust down around your operating position and make it easier to use a foot switch and move your chair.

With all of the power cables, coax, CAT5 and other tripping hazards, we are in need of cable and cord shield covers to put across walkways. These will save wear and tear on the cables, keep people from tripping and, more importantly, prevent your radio from being jerked off of the table or the power disconnected in the middle of a contact.... I will bring some flagging for guy lines as they are also a potential hazard as we move around the site. If you are using rebar or other metal stakes to tie down your setups, you will need to cover the ends to prevent injuries—used plastic drink bottles make good covers. Hint—8 to 12" x 1/2" lag bolts with a fender washer make very good stakes for light guying and shelter hold-downs and can be driven flush to the ground with an electric impact driver which I will bring for your use.

The club has a large coffee pot with filters, so that is covered. Coolers filled only with ice are also important and having cold drinks while setting up on Friday and breaking down on Sunday afternoon is very important, so they should be the first things deployed and the last things to be packed up on Sunday. We need to have a handyman jack with some chain to be able to pull stubborn guy stakes. Plenty of tarps will help with shelters and having a few to quickly deploy over equipment can save the day... A recycling bin for cans and bottles will score points from the Parkies and the public even if we don't get points from the ARRL! If you have a label maker, bring it to insure your equipment is labeled and to help others.

For your personal use, a LED headlight is very handy if you are wandering around after dark. Be sure to bring your PPE—hardhat, gloves and glasses to help in the setup and teardown phases. This year there is lots of water in the lake and marshes, so bug repellent may be in demand. A high SPF sunscreen is also recommended if you are going to venture out from under the shelter. Water will be provided, but it is still a good idea to bring some and a marker to label your bottle—partial, unlabelled bottles sitting around will be

if you are going to venture out from under the shelter. Water will be provided, but it is still a good idea to bring some and a marker to label your bottle—partial, unlabelled bottles sitting around will be dumped and recycled. An insulated coffee mug will keep your coffee hot and cold drinks cold. If you are staying overnight, of course, you will need to bring your camping gear. If you have a radio headset, bring it as most stations will be set up to allow their use to monitor the traffic.

Saturday night, we will have a dinner at 1900 hrs local (7 pm or 0200Z Sunday). We have upgraded the menu and Tri-Tip will top the menu. We are going to charge \$5.00 per person for the dinner if you pay before 1700 local on Wednesday, June 20. Look for the signup on the SNARS.ORG website. After that time it will go to \$10 and we do request that you RSVP so we can get enough food. We have a few re-

nown chefs for most of the cooking, but can use some additional help for prep and serving excellent meals to the crew!

While the club has paid the group use fee, it is up to each vehicle entering the park to pay the \$5 day use fee or the \$15 camping fee if they are staying overnight. Out of state folks are charged a couple of bucks more, and if you have a park pass, it can be less. It gets really expensive if you do not pay and are checked. The park has been good to us, and the money goes back toward the operation and improvement of the facilities.

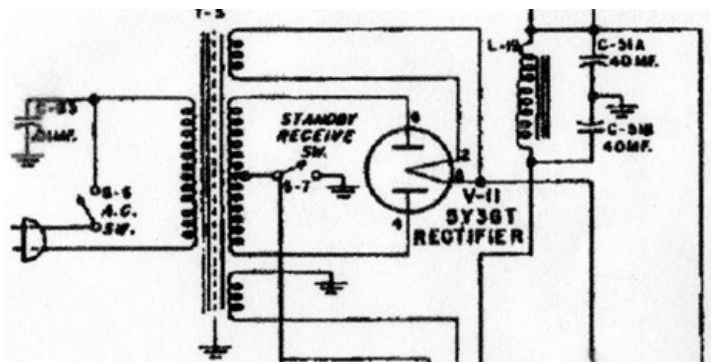
We will have a meeting on-site on Sunday, June 2 at 1500 hrs to further discuss the setup and operations. There will be additional information given out at that time. Thanks for your support of Field Day!

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you'd like to participate in Field Day, contact Rob Dunbar, SNARS FD Coordinator: robdunbar@outlook.com or Jim at the address above, or, better yet, come to breakfast Saturday morning and/or come to the on-site meeting!

SOME ADVICE ON RESTORING OLD RADIOS (WB2AWQ)

With my XYL having had some surgery and the requisite recovery time this spring, I found myself with a lot of "free" time. I decided to do some refurbishing of several older receivers I've had for a while, and used from time to time. The specific models were a Hallicrafters SX-111, and SX-101A, a National NC-125, and a Howard 435.

The most common part of refurbishing an older receiver is the replacement of certain types of capacitors: electrolytics (used in power supplies), paper capacitors, often disguised as some kind of molded capacitor, and a large group commonly called "black beauty" capacitors, even some mica capacitors. These capacitors do not age well, subject to chemical deterioration and moisture incursion. Needless to say such bad capacitors can cause all manner of ills in a radio, from simple deterioration of performance, to inoperative parts of the radio, or in extreme cases to letting all the smoke out, AKA catastrophic failure of expensive parts. There are many websites detailing capacitor replacement, with lots of knowledge out there on the web. Less talked about, however, are some safety issues fairly common in old radios. In three of the four radios I worked on – the Howard, the SX-111, and the National – there was NO fusing of the power supply.

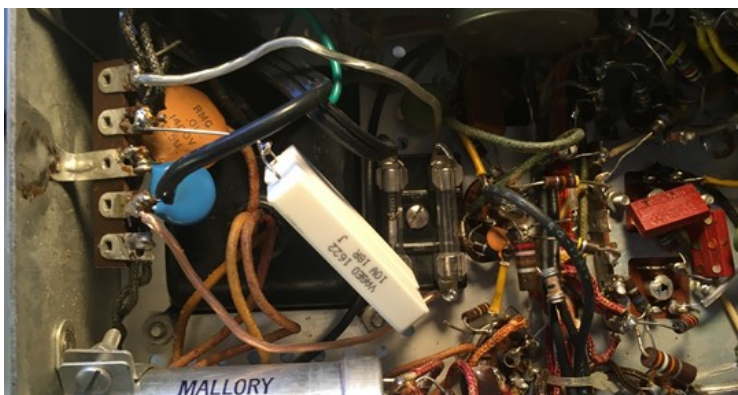


A portion of the National schematic showing the transformer input, with no fuse. Typical of this arrangement.

Because each of these receivers' power supplies are transformer-

operated, the AC line goes only to the transformer, and the DC ground from the power supply is to the chassis, I decided to also replace the AC line cords with three-wire types. Appropriately sized fuses were added before the AC-on switch, and the AC cord hot (black) wire was connected to the fuse, neutral (white) was connected to the transformer, and the ground wire (green) was connected to chassis ground.

Note also there is a capacitor going from one side of the AC line in to ground. This was common in older radios, to place the AC line and chassis at the same RF potential. The problem with this is, if that capacitor were to short out (and they can!), there would be AC directly on the chassis, creating a serious possible shock risk to anyone touching the chassis or any metal part of the receiver, and another metal object which is grounded. Current practice is for both sides of an AC line to have capacitors to ground, to put the AC line and chassis at the same RF potential, but the capacitors these days should be "AC-rated", meaning they can easily withstand the voltages normally encountered on any AC line. Capacitors used for this purpose will have the "AC-rated" as part of their specs or in the description. Older capacitors had no such rating.



Fuses (one for the AC line and one for a resistive heater) and AC rated capacitor (the blue one) installed in an SX-111

SNARS LOGO ITEMS

This year we are celebrating our 50th year by providing many ways to commemorate this occasion by imprinted our 50th



Stickers \$1.00 Each



16oz Coffee Mugs \$8.00



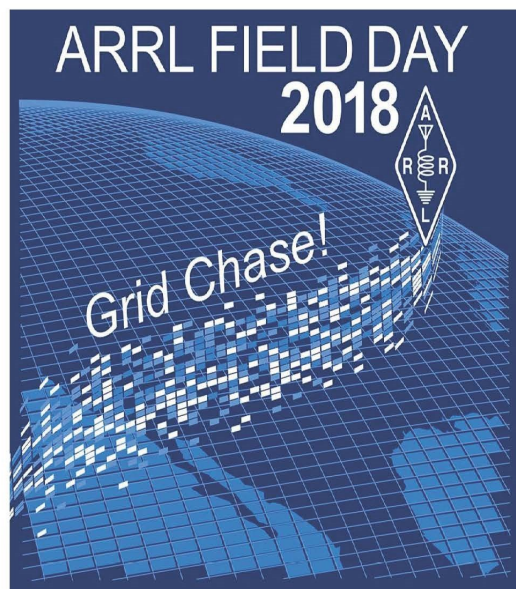
Hats \$10.00



Club Badge \$15.00

Order at
<http://snars.org/store/badge-order>

Items are available at the monthly meetings, events or online (coming soon) <http://snars.org/store>



ARRL FIELD DAY 2018

June 22, 23 & 24, 2018

Washoe Lake State Park

Join us if you are a licensed amateur radio operator or are interested in learning more about amateur radio.

Visit <http://snars.org/fieldday> for more information, schedule and to **sign up for our annual Field Day BBQ!**

What is Field Day?

Since 1933, ham radio operators across North America have established temporary ham radio stations in public locations during Field Day to showcase the science and skill of Amateur Radio. This event is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

For over 100 years, Amateur Radio — sometimes called ham radio — has allowed people from all walks of life to experiment with electronics and communications techniques, as well as provide a free public service to their communities during a disaster, all without needing a cell phone or the Internet. Field Day demonstrates ham radio's ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent communications network. Over 35,000 people from thousands of locations participated in Field Day in 2016.

Anyone may become a licensed Amateur Radio operator. There are over 725,000 licensed hams in the United States, as young as 5 and as old as 100. Join us and come operate and learn about amateur radio!

Field Day Schedule

Friday, June 22, 2018

12:00PM Setup Radios, Tower, Antennas

Saturday, June 23, 2018

7:00AM Setup / Breakfast

11:00AM Start Making Radio Contacts Over the Next 24 hours

12:30PM Lunch

6:00PM Social Hour / Raffle Tickets

7:00PM BBQ Dinner host by SNARS

8:00PM Raffle Drawing

Sunday, June 24, 2018

8:00AM Breakfast

11:00AM Radio Contacts Ends

12:00PM Tear down Radios, Equipment

Sponsored by the
Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society | <http://snars.org>

MIKE'S MISSIVES CHAPTER THIRTY SIX

Mike Katz, N7MSK

Part 97—Rules and Regulations Sharing our spectrum

One of the most common hassles we experience on the air is crowded conditions. For example, trying to find a clear frequency on 20 meter SSB on a busy weekend morning can be a challenge. Effective spectrum use requires the cooperation of each and every operator. That's equally true during years of low solar activity when poor high-band propagation drives everyone to the low bands, or during years of high solar activity when the bands are filled with hams coming out of the woodwork to enjoy the great conditions. Remember we all share these frequencies: No one individual or group is assigned a frequency for exclusive use (97.101(b)).

Over the years, to promote the orderly sharing of frequencies, some "gentleman's agreements" have emerged. Known as *voluntary band plans*, these are not hard and fast FCC rules, but rather guidelines for what kind of amateur activity should take place in various parts of the spectrum. For example, a station trying to work the popular PSK31 digital mode would want to operate around frequencies where that mode is generally found. Remember "good amateur practice?" Band plans are a good example.

Band plans vary from region to region, especially on the VHF and higher bands. It's worth taking the time to learn about and follow band plans for the activities, modes and bands that interest you. When everyone works cooperatively and follows the guidelines, it allows each of us to better enjoy the time we spend on the air. Current ARRL Band Plans are at www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bandplan.html.

NAME THAT RIG



(answer on page 10)

AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE

The Nevada Space Center will be holding another Science Saturday on June 9. The theme is Talking to Space.

There are presentations, films and access to the various simulators in the Center. We will have a HF Station on the air remote to W7RN. We hope to expose as many visitors as we can to getting on the air. The station will be staffed by K5RC, W7LBH and K6DGW.

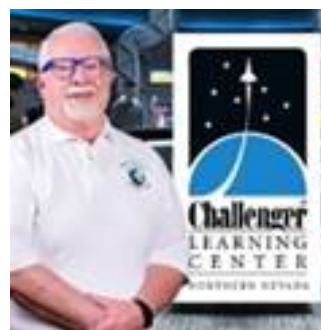
We are still looking for a volunteer who has a remote satellite system to demonstrate satellite communications.

The Nevada Space Center is located inside the National Automobile Museum in Downtown Reno.

For more information and tickets, see <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-science-saturday-series-tickets-44964483982>

Tom Taormina, www.RocketTom.com
www.facebook.com/itwasrocketscience/

O: 775-847-7929 M: 775-846-7068



<http://www.nevadaspacecenter.org/>

<http://www.nevadachallenger.org/>

FUN STUFF FOR JUNE

June offers only a few major events, but three are ARRL-sponsored, (shown in bold) thus qualifying for the ARRL Gavel Award:

9 June 1800 to 11 June 0259 50 and up ARRL June VHF Contest CW Ph Dig www.arrl.org/june-vhf

16 June 0000 to 17 June 2359 1.8-28 All Asian DX Contest, CW www.jarl.org/English

16 June 1800 to 16 June 2359 3.5 - 144, repeaters no WARC, Kids Day Contest Ph www.arrl.org/kids-day

23 1800 24 2100 All, no WARC ARRL Field Day CW Ph Dig www.arrl.org/field-day

A complete list of contests is available at:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2018/June%202018%20Corral.pdf>

If you're not into contests, there's always DX to chase, and June has some good ones, scattered around the globe! Some of the better DX operations coming up in April:

Jun 01 to Jun 09 Sao Tome & Principe S9ZZ

Jun 02 to Jun 06 Aland Is OG0C

Jun 05 to Jun 24 Rwanda 9X2AW

Jun 21 to Jun 27 Solomon Is H44XG

Jun 22 to Jun 27 Palau T88YL

Jun 24 to Jun 30 Taiwan BW

Jun 27 to Jun 29 Market Reef OJ0Y

Jun 27 to Ju 07 Baker & Howland Is KH1

Jun 29 2018 Jul 02 Micronesia V6J

For a complete list of announced DX operations, visit: <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

HELP NEEDED FOR THE NVCON SPECIAL EVENT RADIO STATION

We will be running 2 HF radios and the VHF Talk-In radio for the NVCON event. Operations will be from 0800 to 1800, on Friday and 0800 to 1800 on Saturday. We will need to have 2 operators present at all times to either operate or act as control operators while our guests operate. One station will be set up to run digital modes, primarily FT8, and the other will be set up for SSB and CW. We are planning on running 2 hour shifts on the radios to allow everyone participate in the other convention activities. Each rig will be set up with logging and rig control computers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jim Shepherd, W6US at nvjims@gmail.com

NAME THAT RIG (from pg 9)

If you thought this was a Yaesu FT817ND, you're very close! This is the replacement, the **FT818ND**. Front panels look almost identical – same number of controls, same placement, extremely similar looks. But the new model sports slightly higher max power (6W instead of 5W), a redesigned RF power amp, a higher capacity battery pack (1900 mAh vs 1400 mAh), and the high stability oscillator TCXO-9, for positive compliance with 60 meter rules, is included. The original FT817 (no ND) came out in 2000, with a list price of \$670. The line continues today due to its extreme popularity with the QRP/mountain top crowd. The 818ND lists for \$980, which allowing for inflation is about equal to the price in 2000. I've used an original FT817, (yeah I know, no tubes....) and there's a lot of performance packed in a very small package.

IN CASE YOU'RE NOT CONVINCED, HERE'S AN FT817ND



PROGRAMMERS AND WEBMASTERS NEEDED

The upcoming events this summer and fall will need computer support. From helping set up the network at Field Day to programming the log checking software for the NVQSO Party, we need the help of the computer gurus out there. The SNARS and other associated websites need to be kept up to date as well as our presence on social media. Contact our president, Tony, W7XM for more information on these vital positions with SNARS.



**Activate and Work all
17 counties in Nevada!**

Friday, Oct 12 - Sunday Oct 14

<http://nvqso.com>

For Information and Updates

THE 2018 7QP REPORT

This was the 13th running of the 7QP. Despite the declining solar conditions participation was up this year, as indicated by the “raw” number of different stations captured by the scoring software. 15 meters was down but the lower bands more than made up for the low sun spot numbers. Thunderstorm noise was low over the May 5th weekend which made for enjoyable LF conditions.

Participation	State	#	on	xu	cfm
7th:	AZ	15	14	14	13
RoW:	ID	44	30	25	16
Total:	MT	56	31	28	17
Logs:	NV	17	15	14	14
	OR	36	36	36	33
	UT	29	26	26	20
	WA	39	39	39	35
	WY	23	17	17	12
	Totals	259	208	199	160

On means the county was reported in a received log. **XU** excludes any uniques which are likely busted exchanges. **CFM** is a log received.

The QSO data indicates that participation increased by almost seven percent over 2017 even though the number of active counties and logs received was lower.

Band	CW	PH	DIG	total
160	546	55	0	601
80	11087	3236	5	14328
40	22874	15858	176	38908
20	35945	27848	422	64215
15	3220	202	63	3485
10	18	48	6	72
VHF	0 4	3	4	47
total	73690	47290	676	121656

Most of this increase came from a 17% increase in SSB contacts. CW still represents 60% of the total. Digital contacts were down slightly. There were two(!) recorded FT8 contacts. The stations managed to exchange their state and county information despite the lack of support for the contest in the WSJT program. County activity was down slightly from last year.

With long distances to travel, mobiles have to work very hard to cover widely dispersed rare counties. Nine mobiles turned in logs. Eight of these were single operator-driver. An equal number of mobiles did not send in their logs.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The above information was excerpted with permission from a summary on the 7QP website. 7QP is hosted by the Central Oregon DX Club (CODXC): <http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?Content=START&Page=2>

The website is maintained by Bob Swaney, WS7N, and the summary was written by Dick Frey, K4XU. I identified 18 Amateurs in Nevada participating, most from Northern Nevada. In SNARS, I identified three members who participated: **Jim W6US**, who finished 3rd of 48 in Low Power Phone, **Steve W7SMW**, who finished 14th of 17 in High Power Phone, and **Howie WB2AWQ** who finished 16th of 37 in Low Power CW and also was first place overall in Washoe County. That doesn't say much for Washoe, because Jim's score was almost four times mine! **A big thanks to CODXC for hosting 7QP, and allowing us to present their summary!**

The widespread use of logging software and our custom scoring software are what makes this contest possible. The 2018 scores are posted on a separate page on the 7QP website. It would seem with the ARRL's International Grid Chase going on, that more participants would have an electronic log to submit. Many rare grids were activated in the 7QP this year. N1MM Logger remains in first place with 60%. The results are not exact because 4% of the logs were received via WA7BNM's web form that permits pasting in a log generated from any program. Only four paper logs were received and were processed using TRlog in the post-contest mode.

Loggers

60%	N1MM+
22%	N3FJP
4%	WA7BNM
4%	WriteLog
2%	GenLog
1%	TR4W
1%	ADIF2CABR
1%	RUMlogNG
4%	Others

The 7QP is a unique contest. It covers more land area than any other QSO party and has the largest potential number of county multipliers. While we have never achieved complete coverage, it will always be a quest. The challenge is to organize, plan and cooperate among the various clubs and state managers to attain 259 activated counties.

Top Five QSO parties compared

	Sq. miles	Pop, Mil	Pop/sqmi
Georgia (159 counties)	59,425	10.4	176
Florida (67 counties)	65,755	21.0	319
New England (67 counties)	71,992	14.4	201
7QP's 5 biggest counties	78,460	0.4	5
California (58 counties)	163,696	39.5	242
7QP all 259 counties	318,099	25.2	58

2018 Results The full Results in detail are on the www.7qp.org website. There

you can also see the list of plaque winners, the All-time Records, county activity statistics, and the Soapbox.

For next year:

- Put May 4-5 on your calendar for the next 7QP.
- If you operate at all, please send in your log.
- If you live near a rare county, let your state captain know you might be available for a trip. If you have a mobile setup, even better!

ARES NEWS

ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS CALENDAR 2018 CARSON VALLEY, TAHOE, RENO, PLUMAS COUNTY

EVENT 2018	DATE	DATE	SPONSOR/ORGANIZER	COORDINATOR	CONTACT
Lost and Found Gravel Grinder	6/2/18		Plumas ARC	Brian KJ6EAC	brianv@psln.com
America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride	6/3/18		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	Paul McCaffee KI6OCB	paul.mcafee6243@gmail.com
Pony Express Re-Ride	6/20/2018	6/30/18	SIERA	Jeff Cauhape K7BCV	j_cauhape@yahoo.com
FIELD DAY	6/23/18	6/24/18	SNARS	Rob Dunbar	robdunbar@outlook.com
FIELD DAY	6/23/18	6/24/18	SIERA,	Bob Williams	ka6voc@gmail.com
Death Ride	7/14/18		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	Paul McCaffee KI6OCB	paul.mcafee6243@gmail.com
Tahoe Rim Trail	7/20/18	7/22/18	Tahoe Mountain Milers	Doug KA7FOO	ka7foo@gmail.com
NVCON 2018	7/20/18	7/22/18	SNARS	Tony W7XM	w7xm@snars.org
Round Valley Walk/Run	TBD		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter	dltrotter@sbcglobal.net
Running With the Bears	8/18/18		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter	dltrotter@sbcglobal.net
Vegas to Reno Off Road Race	8/17/18	8/18/18	Best in the Desert Racing	Keith KC7HTK	kc7htkeith@hotmail.com
Tour De Tahoe	9/9/18		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	Paul McCaffee KI6OCB	paul.mcafee6243@gmail.com
Reno Air-Races	9/12/18	9/16/18	WC-ARES	Rick Russell	wa6mtty@gbis.com
Edible Pedal 100	9/16/18		Sunrise Rotary Club	Bob Miller	wa6mtty@gbis.com
Grinduro SBTS	TBD		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter	dltrotter@sbcglobal.net
Nevada Day Parade	10/27/18		NV AREA NW DEC	John Abrott KD7NHC	jabrott77@gmail.com , cell 775 790-1739
Indian Valley Leaf Peepers	TBD		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter	dltrotter@sbcglobal.net

NOTE: Plumas ARC always have a need for operators. Go over to some beautiful country and help out the Plumas Amateur Radio Club

Editor's note:

While there was a board meeting in May, the Secretary was absent, and minutes were not available at press time, thus there are no minutes to be presented. The minutes will be published in the next edition of Cracklin Static.